

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Request for Licensing Freezes and Petition for)	RM-11626
Rulemaking to Amend the Commission's DTV)	
Table of Allocations to Prohibit the Future)	
Licensing of Channel 51 Broadcast Stations and)	
To Promote Voluntary Agreements to Relocate)	
Broadcast Stations from Channel 51)	

**COMMENTS OF
NEW JERSEY PUBLIC BROADCASTING AUTHORITY,
Licensee of Station WNJN(TV), Channel 51, Montclair, New Jersey**

New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority ("NJPBA") comments in this proceeding to urge the dismissal of the Petition for Rulemaking filed by CTIA and the Rural Cellular Association. NJPBA urges the Commission to treat Channel 51 the same as all other broadcast channels and not to restrict or hamper use of Channel 51 in any way.

Background on NJPBA

NJPBA is the operator of New Jersey Network (NJN), the state's educational telecommunications network providing universal access to award-winning programs and services that address the special needs of New Jersey and its citizens. NJPBA is also the FCC licensee of four noncommercial educational public television stations in New Jersey, including WNJN(TV), Channel 51, Montclair, New Jersey. WNJN(TV), on Channel 51, is a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member station. WNJN(TV), on Channel 51, is assigned to the New York, NY

DMA – the number one largest television market in the country with over 7.5 million households as of 2011.¹

For more than forty years, NJN has fulfilled its mission by producing award-winning New Jersey centric programming, with a strong focus on News and Public Affairs, important arts, cultural and documentary programs, and educational services for our statewide constituents and beyond. For most of those years, NJN has been the only television network accessible to all New Jersey households with or without cable. NJN puts New Jersey first. NJN offers hours of New Jersey-centric news and information programming each week, including a weekday local newscast. NJN is an important part of public service and broadcast service to the State of New Jersey and its citizens.

Comments

NJPBA, as the Channel 51 licensee in the biggest TV market in the country, fully supports NAB's position in this proceeding and incorporates, by reference, NAB's comments in this proceeding. NJPBA comments separately, however, because it is uniquely affected by the rulemaking proposal, as a Channel 51 public broadcasting licensee in the most vibrant and competitive media market in the country.

NJPBA, having struggled – mightily – to fulfill the unfunded federal mandate for digital television conversion on Channel 51, should not now be inhibited or prevented from fully utilizing its Channel 51 license in any way. NJPBA needs the ability to continue to adapt its use of Channel 51, including facility licensing, modifications, facility upgrades and facility maximizations, in ways that best serve the citizens of the State of New Jersey.

¹ See <http://www.nielsen.com/content/dam/corporate/us/en/public%20factsheets/tv/2010-2011%20DMA%20Ranks.pdf>

New Jersey is a state that has been chronically under served in terms of local, in-state full power television broadcast signals, as compared to neighboring states. New Jersey is a truly unique media environment – covered, yet not really “served” by broadcasters from both New York and Philadelphia. Thus, it is imperative that the FCC not permit any weakening of the ability of Channel 51 to fully serve New Jersey. In fact, NJPBA finds it ironic that, while the FCC moves forward to satisfy Section 331 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and provide brand new (and long anticipated) additional TV service to the State of New Jersey, the petitioners are asking the FCC to put restrictions and limitations on the use of NJPBA’s state-owned and public service-oriented spectrum on Channel 51.

NJPBA strenuously opposes any licensing revisions, facility freezes, accelerated clearance or other rule changes that hinder or otherwise devalue use of Channel 51. NJPBA opposes any rule changes that would treat WNJN(TV), on Channel 51, along with its 6 MHz of broadcast spectrum, differently from broadcasters on other channels.

For the reasons stated above, NJPBA respectfully urges the Commission to dismiss the Petition.

Respectfully Submitted,

NEW JERSEY PUBLIC BROADCASTING
AUTHORITY

By: /s/ Margaret L. Miller
Margaret L. Miller
Dow Lohnes PLLC
1200 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
202-776-2914
mmiller@dowlohn.com
Its Counsel